African American Boys & Men
Rites of Passage

Manhood Development Project

Boy’s Rites of Passage Training
Fatherhood Training
Mentoring Program

A Culturally Relevant Multi-Media Education Model
A Project of the Male Action Coalition
The Male Action Coalition (MAC) is a community based collaboration dedicated to the constructive development of African American Boys and Men. MAC is a joint effort between churches, schools, the business community, consultants, supporters and community volunteers, under the direction of the Male Action Coalition’s board of directors. MAC is a not-for-profit 501c3 enterprise.

Mission Statement
Our mission is to facilitate the positive growth and development of African American males; to inspire culturally affirming values that promote positive self-esteem, competence, and commitment. Our charge is to teach life skills, business skills, and leadership skills.
The Male Action Coalition’s Manhood Development Project (MDP) is a culturally relevant training and socialization discipline for African American men and boys. It’s a comprehensive interactive, multi-media education curriculum. The project has three components; the Boys Rites of Passage Program, the Mentoring Program and the Fatherhood Program.

The Manhood Development Project is supported by a comprehensive audio-visual library. The library provides visual documentation of pertinent information in every area of training. The use of music, video, the computer and other social-media tools, affords us a unique historical and real-time perspective.
The importance of a culturally sensitive approach to support services for the African-American community can not be overstated. It is culture that provides people with a general design for living and ways of understanding their reality.

History provides a point of origin and an anchor for a people. It clarifies past and on-going relationships and helps us understand the link between the past, the present, and the future.

Ours is a rich and powerful story that we are seldom fully aware of. Knowing “Ourstory” is essential to the development of strong families and communities.

Know Thy Self
Boy’s Rites of Passage Program

Culturally Relevant Youth Development Training

Our “RITES of Passage” youth development model has proven to be a relevant socialization process for African-American youth. Rooted in the tradition and culture of African/African American people, training is designed to impart the knowledge required, to reach various levels of “Passage” or “Demonstrated Awareness”.

Our Boy’s Rites of Program provides instruction in History & Culture, Life Skills and Leadership Skills. Our goal is to promote cultural awareness; moral values; positive self-esteem; interdependence; critical thinking skills; work ethics, and social coping skills.
LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
OUTLINE

HEALTH & HYGIENE
The Life Cycle
Nutrition
Medicine & Natural Remedies
Drug Awareness
Hygiene
Cosmetics
Clothing and Dress

MATURATION
Adolescent Development
Sexual Responsibility
Dating
Relationships
Womanhood
Manhood
Reproduction
Prenatal Care and Childbearing
Child Rearing

HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT
Household Finances
Household Maintenance
Home Etiquette
Meal Planning and Preparation
Home Entertainment

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE
Value Clarification
Morality and Public Behavior
Respect the Property of Others
Respect for Authority and Law
Communication Skills
Conflict Resolution

EDUCATION
The Power of Knowledge
Mis-education
The Student & The Scholar
Unlimited Access

ECONOMICS
Work & Work Ethics
Economy
Employer Employee Relations
The Business of Entrepreneurs

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
Basic Automobile Maintenance
Carpentry & Basic Construction
Computer Training
Basic Home Maintenance
Growing Your Own Food

BANKING & FINANCE
Money
Income and Expense
Budgeting
Checking and Saving Accounts
Investments
LEADERSHIP SKILLS

CIVICS: Governance, Citizenship, Electoral Politics

THE NGUZO SABA VALUE SYSTEM

UMOJA - Unity .........................................................Organization and Group Dynamics
KUJCHAGULIA - Self Determination ........Strength of Mind & Perseverance
UJIMA - Collective Work & Responsibility.....Planning, Goal Setting, Problem Solving
UJAMMA - Cooperative Economics..........Fund-raising, Management and Accountability
KUUUMBA - Creativity...............................Innovation, Program Development
NIA - Purpose ......................................................Study & Struggle
IMANI - Faith .......................................................Confidence & Commitment
The Fatherhood Program

Fatherhood Rite of Passage Workshops
In every culture there are definite rituals which males must experience in order to be recognized as men. These activities prepare young men in matters of family and community responsibilities i.e. vocation, marriage, procreation and parenting. This prescribed training is a rite of passage to manhood. The fatherhood workshop is a socialization/education process. It requires of the participant, a demonstrated understanding of various social concepts and skills essential to building and maintaining constructive families.

Fatherhood Training Facilitators (FTF’s)
The fatherhood workshop is led by a team of two fathers who have been trained as Fatherhood Training Facilitators, supervised by a qualified social service professional. The FTF’s facilitate the fatherhood training session/workshops, sharing ideas, experiences and resources with the group. Groups meet weekly toward the completion of an 18 hour fatherhood training cycle.
FATHERHOOD TRAINING OUTLINE

Celebrating Black Manhood
A Rich Heritage
Black Identity
How are Black people viewed?
The Black Family
Strengths and Values
The Transmission of Values

Becoming a Father
What is a Father?
What Kind of Fathers must we be?
A Child is coming: The Pregnancy
The Birth Experience

It takes a Village to Raise a child
Mom
Family Support
Building a Support System

Paternity Law
Understanding Paternity Law
Child Support

Taking Care of Your Child
Parenting
Nutrition
Clothing and Supplies
Child Care: Comfort and Keeping Clean
Staying Well
When Baby is sick
Keeping Baby safe

Child Development
Physical Development
Intellectual Development
Emotional and Social Development
Constructive Discipline

Taking Care of Business
Home / Neighborhood
Work
Your Money
Future Goals
The Fatherhood Program provides an active support system for parenting males. This support system includes program staff, trainers, mentors, family, community supporters, and the Fatherhood Resource Bank.

A father, unable to provide for his own child, can develop feelings of low self-esteem. These feelings can lead a father to distance himself from his child or children. These fathers need help! In an effort to assist fathers in training, the Male Action Coalition developed the Fatherhood Resource Bank initiative. The resource bank collaborative, solicits and stores clothes, furniture, toys and other items that can assist dads in a time of need.
Family Bonding Project

Having the ability to take one’s child (children, family) to movies, sporting events, cookouts, museums, plays etc., is very important to social bonding. Social outings are planned and coordinated by the fathers in the fatherhood program, the goal is to help fathers form healthy relationships with their children. These outing afford parenting males opportunities to observe how other fathers interact with their children. Fathers pass on constructive parenting skills while strengthening the bonds between father and child, family and community. It is through these social experiences that men continue patterns of behavior that define fatherhood.
Outcomes
Participants will:

- Increase their support system while gaining strength and wisdom from others.
- Learn to ask for help and recognize that (It takes a village) they are not alone.
- Gained an understanding of child development at all stages.
- Learn how to respond appropriately to various child behaviors.
- Learn how to negotiate for expected outcomes.
- Learn that they are a vital part of their child's life no matter what their income level.
- Learn that men are responsible for their children emotionally as well as economically.
- Learn to share themselves with their children in ways that strengthen the ties of family.
- Develop positive co-parenting relationships.

Training Resources:

Parents - parents share information and experiences that are helpful to others.
Trainers / Consultants - share practical information about parenting.
Community Resources – other relevant programs, guest speakers and audio-visual aids.
Fatherhood Resource Guide - a comprehensive body of information covering health, safety, child development, child guidance, family management and parental relationships.
The Mentoring Program

Our objective is to enhance the child’s support system by adding additional positive role models. We never give up on dad, because it’s his natural role to be a model for his son. However too many of our sons are without the support of a good “fatherly” relationship. It is here that the “extended family” must shore-up the vulnerable child. Other men must step-up and play a supportive role in a “village” effort to save our sons.

Rites of Passage Mentors (adults who serve as Advisors / Role models) are an integral part of our MDP. We require the best quality of individual to work with our youth. Men who successfully pass our intake screening are invited to an orientation where they are fully inform as to what is expected of them if selected to work with youth in our program.

“It takes a village to raise a child”
There are several characteristics that Rites of Passage Mentors must display in order to serve.

- High moral character and values.
- Strongly rooted in community, church and or school.
- No record of child abuse.
- Skillfully employed/self-employment and or ambitiously perusing career goals.
- Ability to constructively communicate with young people, parents and others.

We ask mentors to:

- Support the MAC mission.
- Attend mentor orientation training.
- Assist mentees with developing Action Plans and discuss the mentee’s progress.
- Make contact with the mentees in person at least three times per month.
- Observe all program policies and guidelines for mentee-mentor relationship.
- Participate in program activities with mentees.
- Report to the Mentoring Coordinator all contacts with mentees, noting mentee’s needs and or problems.
Multi-Media Resource Center

The Multi-Media Resource Center is a cornerstone of the MAC program, it provides a state of the art training and information resource center to the client community.
Today, more than ever, we live in a “Tech-Knowledge” based age. Everyone will need to use technology for communication, education, employment, and business. Parenting adults must keep up with the fast changing technological world in order to direct and manage multi media tools which aid family and youth development.

The Multi-Media Resource Center will help close the digital-divide. Participants learn and teach basic to advance computer and multi media skills in a stress free, supportive environment.
The Multi-Media Resource Center will offer Computer Training (Hardware and Software), Internet Access for information and communication; Multi-Media Production (Graphic Design, PowerPoint, CD, and DVD Production); business and educational support services.

The goals of the Multi-Media Resource Center are to:
· introduce children and adults to computer technology
· provide computer and multi-media training
· show how computers and digital media can be used to aid family and community
· show how to access social service resources with computer technology
· show how computer technology can enhance education at home and school
· enhance problem-solving through the use of digital communication
· show how computers and digital media can be used to support entrepreneurship
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